calculations performed by the BizPlan™ module 101. Although the illustrated embodiment shows the TopLine Planner™ module 100 as one module in an integrated system it, should be appreciated that the TopLine Manager™ module 100 may also function as a stand-alone module.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-20 and add Claims 21-40 as shown below. No Claims have been amended. Therefore, Claims 21-40 are pending in the application.

1	21.	(New) A computer-automated method for financial planning by managing stored data
2		values representing spending resources of an organization, the method comprising the
3		computer-implemented steps of:
4		receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for at least a portion of the
5		organization;
6		in response to receiving the first data input, creating and storing spending capacity data
7		in a public area, wherein the spending capacity data defines the spending
8		capacity based on the first data input;
9		receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expense allocations for
10		the portion of the organization;
11		in response to receiving the second data input, creating and storing planned expense
12		data in a private area, wherein the planned expense data defines the one or more
13		planned expense allocations based on the second data input;
14		determining whether the planned expense data satisfies a criterion that is based on the
15		spending capacity data; and
16		storing the planned expense data in the public area only when the planned expense data
17		satisfies the criterion.

1	22.	(New) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein:
2		the organization is a business;

3   the portion of the organization is a department selected by user input from among a

4   plurality of departments of the business;

5   the department is associated with at least one spend account;

6   the spending capacity is a limit on spending by the department; and

7   the criterion is satisfied only when a sum associated with the planned expense data does

8   not exceed the spending capacity.

1   23.   (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein:

2   the portion of the organization is a department selected by user input from among a

3   plurality of departments of a business; and

4   the department is associated with one or more financial plans that are created and stored

5   in the private area based on user input from a business manager of the

6   department.

1   24.   (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising the computer-implemented

2   steps of:

3   developing an object that is related to financial activity of the portion of the

4   organization;

5   monitoring the object to identify financial activity in the portion of the organization;

6   and

7   wherein the step of creating the planned expense data in the private area is carried out

8   based on financial activity that is identified from monitoring the object.

1   25.   (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising the computer-implemented

2   steps of:

3   receiving a request to modify the spending capacity for the portion of the organization;

4   determining whether the request is allowable; and

5   only when the request is allowable, updating the first data that is stored in the public

6   area to reflect the request to modify the resource capacity for the portion of the

7   organization.

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1 26. (New) A method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the request to modify the resource
2   capacity is user data input representing a request to increase the spending capacity.

1 27. (New) A method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the step of determining whether the
2   request is allowable comprises the computer-implemented steps of:
3   sending an electronic message to another portion of the organization, wherein the
4   message describes the request to modify the spending capacity; and
5   receiving an electronic response from the other portion of the organization, wherein the
6   response indicates whether the request to modify the spending capacity is
7   allowable.

1 28. (New) A method as recited in Claim 27, wherein the response specifies that the request
2   to modify the spending capacity is allowable based on a different value of the resource
3   capacity than an original value of the spending capacity specified in the request.

1 29. (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising the computer-implemented
2   steps of:
3   receiving user data input representing a modification to one or more planned expenses
4   for the portion of the organization; and
5   updating only the planned expense data that is stored in the private area.

1 30. (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein:
2   the step of creating and storing the planned expense data in the private area includes the
3   step of creating and storing one or more private plan objects in the private area
4   as part of a department object that is associated with the portion of the
5   organization; and
6   the step of storing the planned expense data in the public area includes the step of
7   creating one or more public plan objects as part of the department object.

1 31. (New) A computer-automated method for financial planning based on managing

2   spending resources in an organization that includes a plurality of sub-organizations , the

3   method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

4   creating and storing a stored data hierarchy that represents the organization and the sub-

5   organizations and comprises a plurality of hierarchical levels,

6   receiving first data that specifies a first resource capacity for a first hierarchical level

7   from the plurality of hierarchical levels;

8   receiving second data that defines one or more second resource capacities for one or

9   more sub-organizations in a second hierarchical level from the plurality of

10   hierarchical levels;

11   storing the second data for a particular sub-organization of the one or more

12   sub-organizations in a private area that is accessible by users associated with the

13   particular sub-organization;

14   when the second data does not exceed the first resource capacity, storing the second

15   data in a public area that is accessible by users associated with the first

16   hierarchical level and the second hierarchical level;

17   receiving third data that specifies one or more planned resource allocations for each of

18   the one or more sub-organizations in the second hierarchical level; and

19   for each particular sub-organization of the one or more sub-organizations in the second

20   hierarchical level:

21   storing the third data in an additional private area that is only accessible by users

22   associated with the particular sub-organization; and

23   when the third data does not exceed the second resource capacity for the

24   particular sub-organization, storing the third data in the public area that is

25   accessible by users associated with the first hierarchical level and the

26   second hierarchical level.

1   32.   (New) A method as recited in Claim 31, further comprising the computer-implemented

2   step of:

3   for each particular sub-organization of the one or more sub-organizations in the second

4   hierarchical level, when the third data exceeds the second resource capacity for

5   the particular sub-organization:

6   receiving a request to modify the second resource capacity for the particular sub-

7   organization;

8   determining whether the request is allowable; and

9   when the request is allowable, updating the second resource capacity for the

10   particular sub-organization.

1   33.   (New) A method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the one or more planned resource

2   allocations includes one or more third resource capacities for one or more

3   sub-organizations in a third hierarchical level from the plurality of hierarchical levels.

1   34.   (New) A method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the first hierarchical level is

2   associated with at least one spend account.

1   35.   (New) A method for controlling spending in a business that includes a plurality of

2   departments, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

3   receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for a department from the

4   plurality of departments;

5   in response to receiving the first data input, creating and storing first data in a public

6   area, wherein the first data defines the spending capacity for the department;

7   receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expenses for the

8   department;

9   in response to receiving the second data input, creating and storing second data in a

10   private area, wherein the second data defines the one or more planned expenses

11   based on the second data input;

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12		determining, based on the first data and the second data, whether the one or more
13		planned expenses are within the spending capacity for the department;
14		when the one or more planned expenses are not within the spending capacity for the
15		department,
16		receiving a request to increase the spending capacity for the department;
17		determining whether the request is allowable;
18		when the request is allowable, updating the spending capacity for the
19		department; and
20		when the one or more planned expenses are within the spending capacity for the
21		department, storing the second data in the public area.

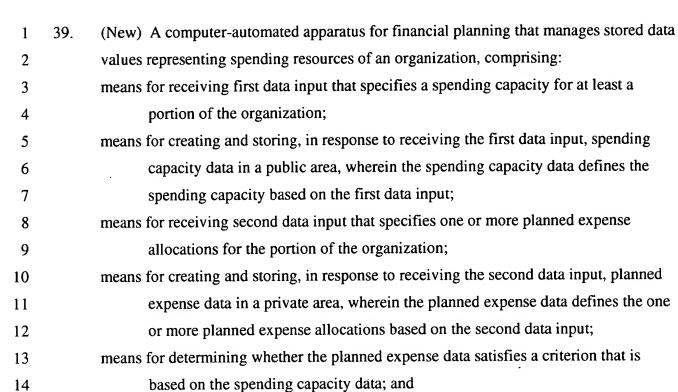|		
1	36.	(New) A method for financial planning for a business, comprising:
2		receiving input from a plurality of front line participants of the business, wherein the
3		input specifies revenue forecasts for the business;
4		in response to receiving the input, combining the input from the plurality of front line
5		participants into an overall bookings forecast and an overall revenue forecast for
6		the business;
7		storing the overall bookings forecast and overall revenue forecast;
8		based on the overall revenue forecast and a profit and loss model, calculating an overall
9		resource capacity for the business;
10		based on the overall resource capacity, receiving a plurality of resource capacities for a
11		plurality of departments of the business;
12		storing data that defines the plurality of resource capacities in a private area;
13		when a sum of the plurality of resource capacities does not exceed the overall resource
14		capacity, storing the plurality of resource capacities in a public area; and
15		adjusting the plurality of resource capacities in response to one or more requests from
16		the plurality of departments.

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1   37.   (New) A method as recited in Claim 36, further comprising the computer-implemented

2   steps of:

3   receiving modified input from the plurality of front line participants;

4   in response to receiving the modified input, calculating a revised overall spending

5   capacity based on the modified input;

6   based on revised overall spending capacity, receiving a plurality of modified resource

7   capacities for the plurality of departments;

8   storing modified data that defines the plurality of modified resource capacities in a

9   private area;

10   when a revised sum of the plurality of modified resource capacities does not exceed the

11   revised overall resource capacity, storing the plurality of modified resource

12   capacities in the public area; and

13   adjusting the plurality of modified resource capacities in response to one or more

14   additional requests from the plurality of departments.

1   38.   (New) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for

2   financial planning by managing stored data values representing spending resources of

3   an organization, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one

4   or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

5   receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for at least a portion of the

6   organization;

7   in response to receiving the first data input, creating and storing spending capacity data

8   in a public area, wherein the spending capacity data defines the spending

9   capacity based on the first data input;

10   receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expense allocations for

11   the portion of the organization;

12   in response to receiving the second data input, creating and storing planned expense

13   data in a private area, wherein the planned expense data defines the one or more

14   planned expense allocations based on the second data input;

15   determining whether the planned expense data satisfies a criterion that is based on the

16   spending capacity data; and

17   storing the planned expense data in the public area only when the planned expense data

18   satisfies the criterion.

1   39.   (New) A computer-automated apparatus for financial planning that manages stored data

2   values representing spending resources of an organization, comprising:

3   means for receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for at least a

4   portion of the organization;

5   means for creating and storing, in response to receiving the first data input, spending

6   capacity data in a public area, wherein the spending capacity data defines the

7   spending capacity based on the first data input;

8   means for receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expense

9   allocations for the portion of the organization;

10   means for creating and storing, in response to receiving the second data input, planned

11   expense data in a private area, wherein the planned expense data defines the one

12   or more planned expense allocations based on the second data input;

13   means for determining whether the planned expense data satisfies a criterion that is

14   based on the spending capacity data; and

15   means for storing the planned expense data in the public area only when the planned

16   expense data satisfies the criterion.

1   40.   (New) A computer-automated apparatus for financial planning that manages stored data

2   values representing spending resources of an organization, comprising:

3   a network interface that is coupled to a data network for receiving one or more packet

4   flows therefrom;

5   a processor communicatively coupled to the network interface;

6   one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor,

7   cause the processor to carry out the steps of:

8	receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for at least a portion
9	of the organization;
10	in response to receiving the first data input, creating and storing spending
11	capacity data in a public area, wherein the spending capacity data defines
12	the spending capacity based on the first data input;
13	receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expense
14	allocations for the portion of the organization;
15	in response to receiving the second data input, creating and storing planned
16	expense data in a private area, wherein the planned expense data defines
17	the one or more planned expense allocations based on the second data
18	input;
19	determining whether the planned expense data satisfies a criterion that is based
20	on the spending capacity data; and
21	storing the planned expense data in the public area only when the planned
22	expense data satisfies the criterion.